

Away **WITH** The Manger



Learn**2**soar
Music



Helping Children Soar To New Heights Of Musical Excellence!

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for looking at this sample from 'Away WITH The Manger', a Christmas performance which can be performed by all ages from 7 upwards.

THREE SCRIPTS

Three editable scripts are included in your purchase. All scripts tell the same story but vary in style and length:

- **FULL PLAY SCRIPT VERSION:** This is a long script for around thirty to forty different actors, plus lots of narrators' parts.
- **ABRIDGED VERSION:** This script is the same as the full play script version but has about 20% of the text removed, especially from the main roles of Bill and Bob, to make it slightly less demanding on the actors.
- **SIMPLE SCRIPT VERSION:** This is half the length of the full script and has rhyming narrators' parts. It has been especially prepared for younger children, or for older children with tight rehearsal schedules.

CAST SIZE

Very flexible. Minimum 20 children. Maximum 100+.

TIMING

Very flexible. If you stick exactly to the scripts, this performance should take around 35-60 minutes depending on which script you use. However, you can easily shorten or lengthen your production by 20 minutes either way, using the provided editable versions of the scripts. Suggestions of ways to easily change the timing can be found in the detailed 'production notes' which are also included in your purchase.

DISCLAIMER

Please note that due to copyright, only the first scene of each script is included below. Similarly, only partial song lyrics have been included.

CAST LIST

<i>Part</i>	<i>Details</i>
Narrator/s	The full and abridged scripts have around a dozen narrators' passages. The simple script has around thirty narrators' passages. Each one varies in length from a single line to several sentences. Therefore, many of these passages could be split up further if required, allowing as many as sixty or more children to have narrating roles.
Bill and Bob	The two robbers are more like the 'Chuckle Brothers' rather than the 'Kray Twins'. Bill and Bob have very little intelligence between them, though Bill seems to be the one in charge. Whichever script you choose, the roles of Bill and Bob are the largest parts. In the simple script they have just 20 lines to learn each. In the abridged script about 40 lines each and in the full script around 80 lines each. They also have a few optional singing parts in songs 2 and 6.
Miss Smiley (The teacher)	A fairly large role. Miss Smiley is a little scatterbrained and as the script progresses, she becomes besotted with Inspector Clueno.
Pupils	There are around 12-15 of Miss Smiley's pupils who have small speaking roles, as well as optional solos in songs 3, 7 & 8.
Mr & Mrs Humphrey (caretaker & wife)	Mr Humphrey is a kind, elderly school caretaker. He has several speaking parts throughout the play. His wife has a small, but important role later in the play.
Inspector Clueno	Another fairly large part. A strange and foolish police inspector from Paris. He speaks in a French accent throughout the play and has one solo (song 4).
Policemen	There are small speaking roles for up to three policemen. They are British policemen who become exasperated by Inspector Clueno. They also have an optional singing part during song 4.
Play Narrator	'Away WITH The Manger' includes a play within a play! To explain further, at the end of the musical Miss Smiley's pupils stage a disastrous nativity for their parents with comical results. In this scene the slightly bossy 'Play Narrator' has the biggest role, though most of his/her lines can be read from the script that he/she should be holding.
Gabriel	Gabriel has several lines and can sing most of song 5 as a solo if required.
Other Nativity Characters	There are a few lines each for Mary, Joseph, Innkeeper, three shepherds and three wise men.
Parents	In the full and abridged scripts, there are small speaking roles for a few parents who have come to watch Miss Smiley's pupils perform their nativity play.
Locksmith	A brief speaking role.
Optional Extras	Most songs lend themselves to having extra children singing one or two lines each as solos. Dancers. If you fancy adding a bit of choreography, almost any song would come across very well with a dance routine included.

Away WITH The Manger: FULL Play Script

SAMPLE VERSION

SONG 1

Away WITH The Manger

VERSE 1

Away with the manger, two robbers stole it,
They were called Bob and Bill and they were both big twits... etc...

SCENE 1

(Outside the school entrance: A sign displays the school's name: 'Ivor Bunion School'. The two crooks run on stage from the left, holding their stolen bag of jewels. An alarm bell and police sirens can be heard [Track 19: Sound effect 1])

NARRATOR

Yes, Bob and Bill weren't the cleverest of people. They'd robbed a jewellery shop, which I'm sure you'll agree is a foolish thing to do.

NARRATOR

But as if that wasn't stupid enough, they hadn't given one bit of thought to their getaway. So now they were on the run from the police, with a bag full of stolen jewels and nowhere to go. Dear, oh dear!

BILL

I thought you said you'd planned our getaway?

BOB

I thought you meant our summer holidays. I've booked us two weeks in the Costa Del Sol. Lovely beach view hotel. All-inclusive too!

BILL

YOU LOONY! I meant the getaway from robbing the jewellers!

BOB

Oh, I see! Well, I just thought we'd hop on the number 42 bus and get off at the chip shop for some tea on the way home.

BILL

BUS? CHIP SHOP? TEA???!!! Have you lost your marbles?

BOB

Ooooo! Marbles! I haven't played marbles since I was little. Can we have a game when we get home?

BILL

AAAARRRGHHH!!!! Get this through your thick head; there will be no going home, no chip shop, no holiday, nothing but jail unless we get out of here NOW!!!

BOB

Okay. Let's go that way! *(He points right)*

BILL

No, the police are coming from that direction.

BOB

Fine, well how about that way? *(He points left)*

BILL

No, the jeweller's security guards will be chasing us down that road!

BOB Well, what about out there? *(He points to the audience. They both look quizzically at the audience)*

BILL Looks scary out there... *(He points at the front row)* I don't like the look of her... and there's a shifty looking guy over that way! *(Looking scared)* He looks like a criminal! *(Turning to Bob)* PLEASE DON'T MAKE ME GO OUT THERE!

BOB Yeah, it does look a bit scary. Lots of glum looking faces! Tell you what, they might smile a bit if we sing them our song...

SONG 2

Bob & Bill

CHORUS

BOB I'm Bob, he's Bill,
 BILL I'm Bill, he's Bob,
 BILL & BOB If you want some criminals we will do the job... etc...

BILL Well, if we can't go that way, *(points left)* or that way, *(points right)* or that way, *(points to the audience)* then we'll have to go that way... *(He points behind him at the sign for the school)*.

BOB A school! Are you sure?

BILL Absolutely. We'll hide out in the school until the police move off. *(Reading the sign)* 'Ivor Bunion'.

BOB I thought you were walking a bit funny.

BILL Not me, the school!

BOB *(Looking puzzled)* The school has a bunion?

BILL Don't be so thick! Come on, let's get inside before the police get here. *(They quickly exit rear of stage. As they exit Bill says...)*

BOB Do you think we could get a school dinner? I'm starving!

NARRATOR So the two crooks went to hide in the school. You'd think that someone in the school would have spotted them, but luckily for Bob and Bill, just as they went in one entrance, everyone in the school came out of the other entrance! *(Enter teacher and about a dozen pupils. The teacher is holding a register)*

PUPIL 1 Fancy doing a fire alarm drill in this weather! It's freezing! *(He/she stops and listens carefully)* Hang on, where is that alarm bell coming from?

PUPIL 2 *(Also listening carefully)* I think it's coming from that way. *(He/she points left)*

PUPIL 3	<i>(Addressing their teacher)</i> Please, Miss Smiley, I don't think the alarm is coming from our school after all. I think it's the jewellers.
TEACHER	Oh! So, it's not the fire alarm. What a shame we're all missing Maths for no reason. <i>(The pupils behind the teacher silently jump up and down in jubilation – when the teacher turns round, they keep still and look well behaved)</i>
PUPIL 4	<i>(In a 'teacher's pet' sort of way)</i> I'm sad to be missing maths too, but honestly, I can't wait for the next lesson. It's the last part of the day, so that must mean it's nearly time to rehearse our nativity play.
PUPIL 5	Yeah, and we're doing the play tomorrow for our parents! I can't believe it's come round so quickly!
PUPIL 6	Miss Smiley, since we could be out here for a while, can't we just miss the end of Maths and have an early playtime? There's so much lovely snow on the ground and it's a shame for it all to go to waste!
TEACHER	An early playtime? Oh no, we must get indoors again as soon as we can. We just need to wait for the janitor to give us the all-clear.
PUPIL 7	Oh, pleeeeeease miss? Can we play in the snow for just a few minutes? <i>(All the pupils circle the teacher and start begging to be allowed to play in the snow)</i>
TEACHER	Okay then, but only until we get confirmation that we're allowed back inside. <i>(The children cheer and then start playing with pretend snowballs while singing the next song)</i>

SONG 3

Playing In The Snow

CHORUS	Play, playing, playing in the snow, Snow, snowballs, snowballs we must throw, Play, playing, playing in the snow, We're freezing, cold from head to toe... etc...
--------	--

CARETAKER	<i>(Enter the caretaker)</i> All clear. There's no fire anywhere.
TEACHER	Thank you, Mr. Humphrey. What a relief! Right children, line up please. <i>(The children ignore her as they are obviously having so much fun)</i> Children, line up please, right now! <i>(The children are still being very rowdy and continue to ignore her – enter Inspector Clueno and two policemen)</i>
INSPECTOR	<i>(Speaking in a French accent throughout)</i> STOP ZIS HILARITY. I'M POLICE INSPECTOR CLUENO AND YOU ARE ALL UNDER A VEST!!!
PUPIL 8	No, our vests are under our clothes, not the other way round!
INSPECTOR	No, you are all under a vest, UNDER A VEST, I SAY! Officers, handcuff zem all!

POLICEMAN 1	Sorry sir, I don't think these good people have anything to do with the robbery. <i>(The children start to whisper excitedly upon hearing the word 'robbery').</i>
POLICEMAN 2	No sir, the jewellery shop staff said that there were two culprits responsible for stealing the jewels, both of whom were fully grown, fit men, not a few children, a female teacher and an obese caretaker.
CARETAKER	<i>(Slightly offended)</i> I beg your pardon? Obese? <i>(He grabs his large belly)</i> I'll have you know this is muscle!
PUPIL 7	<i>(Speaking to pupil 8)</i> Wow. Two robbers! What do you call two robbers?
PUPIL 8	I don't know, what do you call two robbers?
PUPIL 7	A pair of nick-ers!
TEACHER	Quiet children.
PUPILS 7 & 8	Sorry Miss Smiley.
INSPECTOR	Very well, you may not be ze criminals, so on zis one occasion we will let you all off with the hooks. But we will be watching you all closely. <i>(Now addressing the teacher personally)</i> And zat includes you Miss Lovely.
TEACHER	<i>(Going shy, and giggling with embarrassment)</i> It's Miss Smiley actually, not Miss Lovely.
INSPECTOR	Miss Smiley. What a lovely name for such a beautiful woman! <i>(The children snigger)</i>
PUPIL 9	Ha-ha! Miss Smiley has a boyfriend! <i>(The children laugh out loud)</i>
TEACHER	QUIET! <i>(The children snap to attention and remain perfectly still and quiet)</i>
INSPECTOR	Very impressive. Now, would you kindly inform me where ze rest of your pupils and staff are located?
TEACHER	The rest? Oh, no, this is it. We're a very small school. Just a few pupils, one lovely teacher, moi, and our caretaker, Mr Humphrey.
CARETAKER	At your service, sir.
TEACHER	Actually our school is closing soon. The council aren't giving us any more funds, so we don't have enough money to stay open.
INSPECTOR	Zat is a great shame. I would 'ate to think of you being out of work.
TEACHER	Thank you. Now sir, I've answered your questions. In return, might I ask exactly who you are, and why you are here in our school grounds?

INSPECTOR I am Inspector Clueno from ze Paris constabulary. I am on temporary assignment 'ere in your country. We received information zat master criminals were planning a jewel robbery. I am here to foil zer plans...

SONG 4 **Inspector Clueno**

CHORUS 1 My name is Inspector Clueno, I come from Paris you know,
(Sung by Inspector) Ze criminals all flee, when zey hear about me,
For I am Inspector Clueno.

CHORUS 2 His name is Inspector Clueno, he has no clue you know,
(Sung by policemen) He is a lunatic, he's very, very thick,
His name is Inspector Clueno.

VERSE 1 I was raised in ze shadow, of Notre Dame Cathedral,
(Sung by Inspector) My poor family 'ad a rabbit farm,
So, when people asked us, where we kept our rabbits,
We'd say we have a hutch back of Notre Dame. (Repeat choruses)

VERSE 2 As a now famous detective, I am very effective... etc...

POLICEMAN 1 A-hem, sir, might I suggest that we start to search the school in case the culprits are hiding there within?

INSPECTOR Silence, I am having a brainywave! (He pauses, looking deep in thought)
Ah-ha! I 'ave it! I believe ze thieves may be hiding in ze school.
Officers begin a search straight immediately. (The two policemen look at each other in disbelief and shake their heads as they exit rear of stage).

CARETAKER There's no one in there, I just checked.

INSPECTOR Never ze less, we will check it double. These are master criminals we are chatting about. You may all go back in when we know it is safe. In ze meanwhile, I want to question ze rest of you closely. (All exit stage right)

Away **WITH** The Manger: ABRIDGED Script

SAMPLE VERSION

SONG 1 Away **WITH** The Manger

SCENE 1

(Outside the school entrance: A sign displays the school's name: 'Ivor Bunion School'. The two crooks run on stage from the left, holding their stolen bag of jewels. An alarm bell and police sirens can be heard [Track 19: Sound effect 1])

NARRATOR Yes, Bob and Bill weren't the cleverest of people. They'd robbed a jewellery shop, which I'm sure you'll agree is a foolish thing to do.

NARRATOR But as if that wasn't stupid enough, they hadn't given one bit of thought to their getaway. So now they were on the run from the police, with a bag full of stolen jewels and nowhere to go. Dear, oh dear!

BILL I thought you said you'd planned our getaway?

BOB I thought you meant our holidays. I've booked us two weeks in Spain.

BILL YOU LOONY! I meant the getaway from robbing the jewellers!

BOB I thought we'd get the number 42 bus.

BILL BUS? That's no good! We can't wait half an hour for a bus!

BOB Okay. Let's go that way! *(He points right)*

BILL No, the police are coming from that direction.

BOB Well how about that way? *(He points left)*

BILL No, the jeweller's security guards will be chasing us down that road!

BOB Well, what about out there? *(He points to the audience)*

BILL Looks scary... *(He points at the front row)* I don't like the look of her... and there's a strange man over there! *(Looking scared)* He looks like a criminal! *(Turning to Bob)* DON'T MAKE ME GO OUT THERE!

BOB Yeah, it does look a bit scary. Lots of glum faces! Tell you what, they might smile a bit if we sing them our song...

SONG 2 Bob & Bill

BILL Well, we'll have to hide in there. *(He points at the school sign).*

BOB A school! Are you sure?

BILL	What choice do we have? <i>(Reading the sign)</i> 'Ivor Bunion'.
BOB	I thought you were walking funny. <i>(They exit quickly rear of stage)</i>
NARRATOR	So the crooks went to hide in the school. You'd think someone would have spotted them, but luckily for Bob and Bill, just as they went in one entrance, everyone in the school came out of the other entrance! <i>(Enter one teacher and around a dozen pupils. The teacher is holding a register)</i>
PUPIL 1	Fancy doing a fire alarm drill in this weather! It's freezing! <i>(He/she stops and listens carefully)</i> Hang on, where is that alarm bell coming from?
PUPIL 2	I think it's from over in that direction. <i>(He/she points left)</i> Please Miss Smiley, I don't think the alarm is coming from our school after all. I think it's the jewellers.
TEACHER	So it's not the fire alarm! What a shame we're missing Maths.
PUPIL 3	<i>(In a 'teacher's pet' sort of way)</i> I'm sad to be missing Maths too, but I can't wait for the next lesson. It's the last part of the day, so that must mean it's nearly time for rehearsals for our school nativity play.
PUPIL 4	Yes, and we're doing the play tomorrow for our parents! I can't believe it's come round so quickly!
PUPIL 5	Miss Smiley, since we could be out here a while, can't we just miss the end of Maths and have an early playtime? There's so much snow and it's a shame for it to go to waste!
TEACHER	Okay, but not for long. <i>(The children cheer and start playing with pretend snowballs while singing the next song).</i>

SONG 3 **Playing In The Snow**

CARETAKER	<i>(Enter the caretaker)</i> All clear. I've checked the school and there's no fire.
TEACHER	Thank you, Mr. Humphrey. What a relief. Right children, line up please. <i>(The children ignore her. Enter Inspector Clueno and two policemen)</i>
INSPECTOR	<i>(In a French accent)</i> STOP ZIS HILARITY NOW. <i>(The children stop, gasp and silently edge towards their teacher)</i> YOU ARE ALL UNDER A VEST!!!
PUPIL 6	No, our vests are under our clothes, not the other way round!
POLICEMAN 1	Sorry sir, I don't think these good people have anything to do with the robbery. <i>(The children whisper excitedly upon hearing the word 'robbery').</i>
POLICEMAN 2	No sir, the jewellery staff said that two fully grown, fit men stole the jewels. Not a few children, a female teacher and an obese caretaker.

CARETAKER	<i>(Slightly offended, he holds his belly)</i> Obese? This is muscle!
PUPIL 7	<i>(Speaking to pupil 8)</i> What do you call two robbers?
PUPIL 8	I don't know, what do you call two robbers?
PUPIL 7	A pair of nick-ers!
TEACHER	Quiet children.
PUPILS 7 & 8	Sorry Miss Smiley.
INSPECTOR	Very well, you may not be ze criminals, so on zis one occasion we will let you all off with the hooks. But we will be watching you all closely. <i>(Now addressing the teacher personally)</i> And zat includes you Miss Lovely.
TEACHER	<i>(Going shy, and giggling with embarrassment)</i> It's Miss Smiley actually, not Miss Lovely.
INSPECTOR	Miss Smiley. What a lovely name for such a beautiful woman! <i>(The children snigger)</i>
PUPIL 9	Ha-ha! Miss Smiley has a boyfriend! <i>(The children laugh out loud)</i>
TEACHER	QUIET! <i>(The children snap to attention and remain perfectly still and quiet)</i>
INSPECTOR	Very impressive. Now, would you kindly inform me where ze rest of your pupils and staff are located?
TEACHER	The rest? Oh, no, this is it. We're only a small school. Just a few pupils, one teacher, moi, and our caretaker, Mr Humphrey.
CARETAKER	At your service, sir.
TEACHER	Actually our school is closing soon. We don't have enough money to stay open. But anyway, who are you and why are you here?
INSPECTOR	I am Inspector Clueno from Paris, on temporary assignment here in your country. We received information zat a pair of master criminals were planning a jewel robbery and I am 'ere to foil zer plans...

SONG 4 Inspector Clueno

POLICEMAN 1	Sir, we should search the school in case the crooks are hiding inside.
INSPECTOR	Silence, I am having a brainywave! Ah-ha! I 'ave it! I believe ze thieves may be in ze school. Officers, search it immediately. <i>(The two policemen look at each other in disbelief and shake their heads as they exit)</i> . In ze meanwhile, I want to question ze rest of you closely. <i>(All exit stage right)</i>

Away **WITH** The Manger: SIMPLE Script

SAMPLE VERSION

SCENE 1

(Outside the school entrance: A sign displays the school's name: 'Ivor Bunion School'. Enter Narrator)

NARRATOR 1 Welcome to 'Away WITH the Manger',
We're glad you've come along,
Sit back, relax and listen,
As we sing you our first song.

SONG 1

Away WITH The Manger

(The two crooks run on stage from the left, holding their stolen bag of jewels. An alarm bell and police sirens can be heard [Track 19: Sound effect 1])

NARRATOR 2 So here is Bill and here is Bob,
They've tried to run away,
But they didn't know which way to go,
They weren't having a good day!

NARRATOR 3 You see, they'd done a naughty thing,
They'd stolen a bag of jewels,
Now the police were after them,
They were a pair of fools!

NARRATOR 4 Now Bill and Bob are on the run,
With no getaway plan,
They really need to escape,
As quickly as they can!

BOB *(Pointing left)* We can't go that way, the security guards are coming.

BILL *(Pointing right)* We can't go that way, the police are coming.

BOB *(Pointing towards audience)* And out there looks quite scary! *(Both stand still looking at the audience)*

BILL There are a lot of glum faces! Let's cheer them up with a song!

SONG 2

Bob & Bill

(Sound of alarm and police sirens can again be heard [Track 19: Sound effect 1])

BOB	Let's go and hide out in the school. <i>(Both run rear of stage past school sign and exit)</i>
NARRATOR 5	Now as the two crooks disappeared, To the sound of the alarm, Out came a class and their teacher, With the register under her arm. <i>(Enter teacher and pupils. Children stand in line while the teacher counts them)</i>
PUPIL 1	<i>(Raising hand)</i> Please Miss, it's not the fire alarm,
PUPIL 2	I think it might be the Jeweller's Shop. The sound's coming from that way! <i>(Points left)</i>
NARRATOR 6	The teacher looked at the children, Miss Smiley was her name, They were missing their Maths lesson, It really was a shame!
NARRATOR 7	She realised the children were right, The sound they could all hear, Wasn't the school's fire alarm, But a burglar alarm ringing clear.
PUPIL 3	<i>(Looking at snow on the ground)</i> Can we have an early playtime and build a snowman?
PUPIL 4	Then we can throw some snowballs too!
TEACHER	Okay, you can stay out for just a little while. <i>(The children cheer and play with pretend snowballs while singing the next song)</i>

SONG 3 Playing In The Snow

(Enter the caretaker)

NARRATOR 8	After five minutes in the snow, The school caretaker appeared, Mr Humphrey was his name, He'd come to give the all-clear.
CARETAKER	All right, you can all come in now.
TEACHER	Thank you, Mr Humphrey. Line up please children. <i>(The children ignore her and noisily continue playing. Enter Inspector Clueno and two policemen)</i>
INSPECTOR	STOP ZIS HILARITY AT ONCE! YOU ARE ALL UNDER ARREST!

(The children stop, gasp and silently edge towards their teacher)

POLICEMAN 1 But Inspector Clueno, they are just boys and girls.

POLICEMAN 2 And the robbers are two men! *(The children whisper excitedly)*

PUPIL 5 *(Speaking to pupil 6)* What do you call two robbers?

PUPIL 6 I don't know, what do you call two robbers?

PUPIL 5 A pair of nick-ers!

INSPECTOR Very well, you are all free to go.

TEACHER Who are you and why are you here?

INSPECTOR I am Inspector Clueno and I have come to capture some dangerous jewel thieves.

SONG 4 **Inspector Clueno**

INSPECTOR But where are ze rest of ze children?

TEACHER This is all the pupils we have. Our school is very small!
We must close soon because we don't have enough money to stay open. Now we really must go back inside. *(Children turn and walk slowly towards the school)*

INSPECTOR Wait, let us go first. We will search zis school for ze robbers!
(Everyone exits rear of stage past school sign)
